HIS MAJESTIES Most Gracious
LETTER
TO THE
CONVENTION of ESTATES at *Edenburgh*,
The 4th of JULY, 1678.
WITH THE
DUTIFUL LETTER
Sent to His MAJESTY, from the Convention
of Estates in *Scotland*, the 11th of *July*, 1678.

Published by Authority.

In the SAVOY,
Printed by *T. N.* for *Andrew Forrester*, next dore to the *Mure*
Tavern in *Kings-street*, *Westminster*. M.DC.LXXVIII.

UMI

HIS MAJESTIES GRACIOUS LETTER TO THE Convention of Estates IN SCOTLAND.

The 13. of *JUNE*, 1678.

CHARLES R.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

AS We have, by many former Letters directed to preceding Parliaments and Conventions, so often and so fully expressed Our great Confidence in the Hearty, Loyal and Sincere Affections both of the Representative, and of the much greater part of the Body of that Our Ancient Kingdom; so now We cannot but assure you, That We repose the same Confidence in you of this Convention; Resolving that this Our renewed Assurance We have of you, shall remain on Record to Posterity as well as the former. Those Conventions preceding you, did fully answer Our Expectations, and We have good reason to have the same Confidence of you: And therefore We shall only acquaint you with the Reasons of Our Calling you together.

The great Kindneſs We bear to that Our Ancient Kingdom, hath, at all Times, inclined Us to be very watchful over all its Concerns; And conſidering that all Kings and States do at preſent carefully Secure Themſelves and their People, by providing againſt all ſuch Foreign Invaſions, and Inteſtine Commotions, as may make them a Prey to their Enemies; It is not fit, That that Our Kingdom ſhould only, of all others, remain without Defence; Eſpecially at a time wherein thoſe dangerous Field-Conventicles (ſo juſtly termed in our Laws, *The Rendevouzes of Rebellion*) ſtill grow in their Numbers and Inſolencies; Againſt all which, Our preſent Forces cannot in reaſon be thought a ſuitable Security. Therefore, and that we may be the better enabled to raiſe ſome more Forces, for ſecuring that Our Kingdom againſt all Foreign Invaſions, and Inteſtine Commotions, and to the end they may be maintained by ſuch equal and regular Wayes as may give leaſt Diſſatisfaction to Our People, and to let the World ſee the Unanimous Affection of Our People to Us: Theſe are the only Reaſons of Calling you together at this time. And although We have been alwayes very unwilling to lay Burthen upon that Our Kingdom, yet We could not neglect the giving you this opportunity, to witneſs your Affection to Our Service, eſpecially in ſo dangerous a Time, and for ſo important a Cauſe. And ſeeing We are reſolved to employ what you ſhall give, only for the Peace and Security of that Our Kingdom, We doubt not but you will chearfully give ſuch a Supply as may be effectual for the Ends propoſed, ſuch as the Kingdom can bear.

As to the way of raiſing this Supply, We know the like hath been formerly done, both by way of Taxation, and by way of Valuation of the yearly Land-Rents, and we know Taxation to be the ancient way, yet We underſtand it will take ſo much time in Collecting, that it will not anſwer the preſent Exigent; Therefore we do earneſtly recommend to you, to take the moſt eaſie and expedite way of raiſing Money for this ſo neceſſary a Work. We confidently expect that all Ranks and Conditions of Men (excepting only Colledges and Hoſpitals) will willingly Contribute for the Defence of the Kingdom, and their own Preſervation, againſt Foreign and Domeſtick Enemies: This is the only Buſineſs you are to do in this Convention.

We

We have made choice of the Duke of *Lauderdale* to be Our Commissioner for this Convention, who hath so often faithfully served Us in that Station; and not only in this, but in all other Capacities, as well for Our Interest, as for the Advantage of His Native Countrey; And therefore We do expect you will give entire Credit unto him whom We so much trust. He will more particularly acquaint you of what may concern this Business, for which We have now called you. He will also tell you how confident We are of you, and how ready we shall be, upon all occasions, to do every thing that may be, for the Good of that Our Kingdom, whose Interest shall ever be dear unto Us; And so we cannot but be confident, That after your Dissolution, you will in your several Stations, give real Testimonies of your Zeal to Our Service, to the Maintenance of Our Government both in Church and State, as it is now Established by Law, and to the preserving the Peace of the Kingdom; in which, according to every Mans Actions, he may expect Marks of Our Royal Favor. And so We bid you heartily Farewell.

Given at Our Court at Whitehall, *the* 13th *day of* June, 1678.
and of Our Reign the 30th *Year.*

THE SPEECH OF HIS GRACE THE Duke of Lauderdale,

HIS MAJESTIES High Commissioner, TO THE Convention of Estates at EDENBURGH, The 4th of JULY, 1678.

My Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and you Gentlemen the Commissioners of the Shires, and of the Royal Burroughs.

YOU have heard in His Majesties Most Gracious Letter, now read to you, the renewed Expressions of His Kindness to, and Confidence in the Hearty, Loyal and Sincere Affection of you the Representers, and of the much greater part of the Body of this His Ancient Kingdom. He hath so fully expressed this to all the Sessions of His Two Parliaments, and to the Two former Conventions; He hath given such real, and such convincing Testimonies of this, in all the Acts of His Government these Eighteen Years, since His Most Glorious and Happy Restauration, which I am sure are so deeply rooted in all your Hearts, that I shall not further insist. His Majesty hath fully and clearly express'd the Reasons of His Calling this Convention, and of His Expectation of such a Supply, as may Enable Him to protect and defend you against Foreign Invasion, or Intestine Rebellion: On this I shall inlarge a little.

You

You may remember that Four Years ago, in the last Session of the last Parliament, though the King was actually Engaged in a great War, yet knowing the low Condition of this Kingdom, He asked no Supply, for then there was no appearance of any Insurrection here, though soon after the end of that Parliament, the Fanaticks broke out very insolently in divers places; I shall not reflect how this came.

But this Year they have been much more insolent in numerous Field Conventicles, which the Law justly terms, Rendevouzes of Rebellion; *And the Countries most infested, declared, That they were not able to suppress them, so there was a necessity to draw Forces together: I shall not repeat what followed upon that Occasion, nor reflect upon any thing that past since; I will only look forward, how the Kingdom may be secured in this great Conjuncture, by the fairest and most easie wayes.*

About the time of the date of the Kings Letter, there was an appearance of Peace betwixt our neareſt Neighbors, *in* France, Flanders, *and the* United Provinces, *which now seems to be at least retarded, and all Countries prepare for their Defence; which makes it necessary that this Kingdom should not be the only Countrey left naked without any Defence: Here is no more than one Regiment of Foot, and one Troop of Guards, of standing Force, and the Kings Revenue can bear no more; I need not therefore enlarge on the Necessity of raising more standing Force regularly paid, to prevent Free Quarter, which would be otherwise unavoidable. For if there should be an Invasion, or if those Field Conventicles (* the true Rendevouzes of Rebellion *) should join in open Rebellion, as they did in the Year 1666, the whole Power of the Kingdom must be drawn together; how burthensome that would be, I leave you to judge; and nothing can prevent such a Rebellion; but some more standing Forces regularly paid, which may not only prevent it now, by God's blessing, but secure us from it for the future.*

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The King, like a true Father of His Countrey, puts you in mind of your danger, and proposes to you the fairest, the easiest, and the most equal Remedy. His Majesty hath these Eighteen Years, in all His Kingdoms, solemnly professed His Abhorrence of Arbitrary Government,

vernment, His Ruling by the Law, and His inviolable Care to preſerve the Liberty and Property of His Subjects: Thoſe Profeſſions have been fully made good by all the Acts of His Government, ſince His Happy Return. And I do, in His Majeſties Name, aſſure you, That He is, and ſhall be as careful of your Liberties and Properties, as of any thing on Earth that is neareſt and deareſt to Him; And if any intruſted by Him ſhall tranſgreſs, they may certainly expect to be cruſh'd under His juſt Diſpleaſure: He will maintain the true Religion, and the ancient Government of this Church, as now Eſtabliſhed by Law; He will Execute the Law againſt Tranſgreſſors; He will Maintain His Judicatures; He will defend His good Subjects in all their juſt Rights: Who would not then chearfully, and thorowly Serve and Obey ſo Gracious a King? And what He now demands, ſhall, I hope, appear neceſſary and eaſie: It will be ſome Burthen, I confeſs, but when you conſider this great Truth, That no Countrey in Europe hath born ſo little Publick Burthen as this, none at all ſince the Year 1672. And how what hath been given, hath been wholly employ'd for thoſe Publick Ends for which it was given, As this I do aſſure you ſhall moſt exactly be.

Conſider all the intolerable Burthens you lay under, whil'ſt you groan'd under Rebellion; Call to mind the Monthly Maintenances, the Ceſſes, the Loans, and that unparallel'd Oppreſſion of borrowing Money from whom they pleas'd, without Rules of Reaſon, but their own Will, which was their Law; This borrowing, was, indeed, forcing Money, which was never Repaid. Call to mind that horrid Tyranny of the Trayterous Uſurpers, their moſt unſufferable Ceſſe of Ten thouſand pounds per Menſem, *for many Years; And, at laſt, their Six thouſand pounds* per Menſem *conſtantly, till this Majeſties Glorious Return.*

You cannot forget their Fining and Forfeiting, their Impriſoning many of the Kings beſt Subjects, and the other Acts of their moſt unlimited and moſt inhumane Tyranny, which laſted Two and twenty Years, till God broke their Bonds, and ſet us free, by the Return of our Lawful and Moſt Gracious King. Compare then what We ſuffered for not Obeying the King, and for our Rebellion, and the Effects of that Rebellion, the Sword of mercileſs Traytors, whom our Diviſions only enabled to ſubdue us, and I hope you will clearly ſee how happy we are in Loyalty.

You cannot imagine that the King intends to keep up a constant Force, while you remember that in the Year 1666, the Forces then raised, were by His Majesty readily disbanded when that Exigent was over, though no small Endeavors were used for their continuance.

The Force the King designs to raise, shall not be formidable, but moderate, such as are of absolute necessity, to which, I hope, you will give a hearty, a ready, and an Unanimous Consent: The wayes of Imposing it are left to your selves, not doubting but you will take the expeditest way, as is hinted in the Kings Letter; And I persuade my self, by your Unanimity, you will consider your own Reputation, and the Honor and Security of Scotland, *in this so necessary Service to the best of Kings.*

C THE

THE Dutiful LETTER

Sent to His MAJESTY, from the Convention of Estates in SCOTLAND. The 11th of JULY, 1678.

May it please Your Sacred Majesty,

WHen we reflect upon the great Happiness of living under a King of our own Nation and Religion, whose Predecessors have for many Ages kept us from being Conquered by Strangers, and a Prey to one another; And how that though We have been so Unhappy, as not to have had Your Majesties Sacred Person amongst us, yet Your Majesty does alwayes, with a most Fatherly Care, provide for our Security and Happiness; so that whilst our Neighbors have been spending their Estates and Blood in cruel Wars, we have enjoyed a most sweet and profitable Peace. We cannot be so far wanting to our Duty, as not to embrace every Occasion of testifying to the World, our humble and thankful Acknowledgment of those Blessings, which we value as much, because they are Marks of Your Majesties Favor, as for being the Effects of Your Royal Protection.

And therefore we, Your Majesties most Faithful and most Loyal Subjects, the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and the Representatives of the Shires and Boroughs of this Your Ancient Kingdom, being Assembled in this the fullest Convention that ever has been seen of Your Majesties Estates, do, in a Dutiful Return to those and the other Marks of Your Majesties Royal Care and Kindness, assure Your Majesty, That though Factious and Humorous Persons may seduce some in this Nation to depart from their Duty, yet there is generally so much Innate, National,

nal, and Unalterable Kindneſs and Duty, in the Hearts of the Subjects of this Your Majeſties Ancient Kingdom, that theſe Errors do in moſt proceed rather from a miſrepreſentation of Your Majeſties Inclinations, than from any formed Reſolutions of oppoſing Your Authority. And that the World may know how much we truſt Your Majeſties Judgment, and how intirely we believe the Meaſures You take, to be the beſt and ſafeſt, We acknowledge it is fit we ſhould Enable Your Majeſty to reſiſt all Foreign Invaſions, at this Time eſpecially, wherein all Europe has too appatent Reaſon to be jealous of ſo Potent and Reſtleſs Neighbors. And therefore without prying into Foreign Myſteries, (which are the proper Employment of Princes) we do, with all humble Confidence, repoſe intirely upon Your Majeſties wiſe Conduct, being fully reſolved to contribute our Lives and Fortunes towards the maintenance of Your Majeſties Honor and Greatneſs, in which our Peace and Safety are inſeparably included.

We hope Your Majeſty will not think it ſtrange, that after ſo inveterate and raging a Rebellion as that was, which for ſo many Years waſted all Your Majeſties Dominions, we ſhould not ſo fully and ſo ſoon return to our former Integrity, as that ſome of us ſhould now need ſometimes Your Majeſties Pardon, and all of us, at all times, Your Majeſties Aſſiſtance; But we hope that Time and Reaſon will, with Your Majeſties Juſtice, Clemency and Prudence, reduce this Your Ancient Kingdom, in a ſhort time, to its former intire Loyalty: Such as trouble our Peace becoming daily more inconſiderable in their Numbers, as they have for a long time been, and have, in this Repreſentative of Your Majeſties Kingdom, appeared to be as to their Intereſt. And that theſe Rebellious and Schiſmatick Principles may be rooted out by lawful and ſutable means, we have offered Your Majeſty a Supply, which nothing, ſave the Sincerity, Unanimity, and the Affection wherewith it was offered, could make any way conſiderable. And to make the ſame yet more effectual for attaining ſo deſirable Ends, we aſſure Your Majeſty, That we ſhall contribute our hearty Endeavors for ſuppreſſing thoſe Factious and Schiſmatick Humors, which, if favoured, or indulged, would ſoon ripen into a new Rebellion; Knowing, that the ſureſt way to leſſen our Burdens, is to remove their Cauſe. And as this Supply is furniſhed,

nished, at this time, with respect only to the present Exigence, so this shall not lessen our forwardness in appearing universally betwixt 60 and 16, (Conform to the Laws of this Your Majesties Kingdom) with great Alacrity and Chearfulness, when ever Your Majesty calls for our Assistance.

We hope that the Duke of *Lauderdale* will inform Your Majesty, with what Respect we received and used him as Your High Commissioner; Knowing, that not to believe what is represented, in Your Majesties Name, by your Ministers, is as dangerous, as to oppose Your Person in defence of Your Authority; both of these furnishing equally Pretexts of opposing the Royal Power, when it does not please us. His management of Affairs in this Convention, has justified Your Majesties Choice of him, and will (we hope) answer Your Expectation.

Having thus satisfied Your Majesties just Desires, we hope Your Majesty, who uses alwayes to lessen our greatest Guilt, and to heighten the value of our meanest Endeavors, will continue Your Care of our Concerns, Your Goodness having left us nothing else to Crave; That enjoying the pious and free Exercise of the Protestant Religion, as it is presently Established in its Doctrine and Government, and the just Liberties of our Persons and Properties, in the due Administration of the Laws and Customs of our Native Countrey, we may continue to bless God for a King, who, like God, (from whom alone our Kings derive their Power) never uses his Power, but to do good; and may be with all Chearfulness ready to hazard what is so preserved to us, in the defence of Your Majesties Royal Person and Government. And this we have ordered to be Signed by Your Majesties Chancellor, in Name of

Your Majesties most Humble,

Edenburgh, July 11. 1678.

Most Faithful and Most Obedient

Subjects and Servants.

Rothes Cancell. I. P. D. Con.

276643